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PRESS RELEASE

MOU signed to Promote Workforce Development

On November 23, 2009, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between State University St. Kliment Ohridski, Bitola (UKLO) and Carana Corporation as the implementer of the USAID Macedonia Competitiveness Project. The signing of the MOU marks the beginning of a joint effort to support the promotion and implementation of workforce development, including internships, job placement, training and certification, as well as industry education partnerships. These programs aim to reduce the gap between the supply and demand of a qualified workforce, produce the skilled labor required by the market, and build partnerships focused on continuing education and skills enhancement.

Mr. Nimish Jhaveri, Director of the USAID Competitiveness Project, noted that the project is designed to benefit students, universities, companies and society in general. "We are glad for the cooperation with State University St. Kliment Ohridski and we hope that this initiative will enable students to have greater opportunities for future employment and application of acquired knowledge to practical situations in the work place" he said.

"The purpose of each educational process is to establish a link between theory and practical realization. Internships represent a very important element in the curricula of our University," said PhD. Zlatko Zoglev, Rector of University St. Kliment Ohridski. "Students and their needs are and always will be the priority of the University of St. Kliment Ohridski, Bitola, thus the signing of this Memorandum will stimulate the development of potential future employees, which is in the interest of the young population of Macedonia."

The USAID Competitiveness Project was initiated in August 2007 to support initiatives that stimulate domestic and foreign investments, capture higher value export markets and generate a significant number of new jobs in Macedonia.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

The American people, through USAID, have invested nearly \$500 million in Macedonia since 1993. USAID is implementing projects that increase investment, create jobs, reduce corruption and improve the quality of education in Macedonia. These initiatives support Macedonia's transition to a stable democracy and its successful integration into the European Union. USAID provides economic and humanitarian assistance in more than 100 countries. For more information please visit <http://macedonia.usaid.gov>.